

03500.017677



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
| | : | Examiner: N/Y/A |
| BUNRO NOGUCHI et al. |) | |
| | : | Group Art Unit: 2673 |
| Application No.: 10/669,334 |) | |
| | : | |
| Filed: September 25, 2003 |) | |
| | : | |
| For: IMAGE FORMING |) | |
| APPARATUS | : | April 15, 2004 |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on attached Form PTO-1449.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,822,646
- (2) JP 9-179383
- (3) JP2000-39757
- (4) JP 11-219086

Copies of documents 2 to 4 are enclosed herewith; however, a copy of document 1 is not enclosed, pursuant to 1276 O.G. 55 (August 5, 2003).

Document 1 shares an inventor, and is commonly assigned, with the subject application.

Document 2 was cited in the specification at page 3, and documents 3 and 4 at page 4, and they are believed to be pertinent for the reasons noted therein.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017677. | | APPLICATION NO. 10/669,334 | |
| | | | | APPLICANT Bunro Noguchi et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE September 25, 2003 | | GROUP 2673 | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 5,822,646 | 10/98 | Kinoshita et al. | 399 | 24 | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 9-179383 | 7/97 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 2000-29757 | 2/00 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 11-219086 | 8/99 | Japan | | | Abstract |
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| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1